

\$406
IN COUPONS
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has strings to it

SUNDAY

VARIETY
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a summer escape

EXPANDED
STATE
COVERAGE

May 31, 2020
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73°  **58°**
Mild sunshine; morning
thunderstorms. **B16**

The Guard moves in

MASSIVE DEPLOYMENT AIMS TO QUELL RIOTING

Violence convulses cities nationwide over George Floyd's death



By PAM LOUWAGIE
and PATRICK CONDON
Star Tribune staff writers

The Minnesota National Guard rolled through the Twin Cities on Saturday in its biggest deployment since World War II as Gov. Tim Walz sought to bring a show of strength sufficient to put an end to days of lawless rampage following the death of George Floyd.

Under criticism for failing to stop the chaos sooner, Walz all but declared war as he and other state and civic leaders begged peaceful protesters to go home before an 8 p.m. curfew Saturday to separate themselves from rioters on the streets.

But peaceful protests turned tense after curfew when crowds continued to march and officers moved toward large groups, spraying them with pepper spray, tear gas and rubber bullets.

The National Guard moved in aggressively against all demonstrators in the area of Nicollet and Franklin avenues, throwing tear gas bombs and effectively dispersing much of the crowd.

Police started making arrests there, as well as several blocks away at 28th and Grand Avenue “for gun violations” where an AR-15 was confiscated, Minneapolis police said.

West St. Paul Police tweeted that officers were responding to reports of shots fired and had been stopping vehicles, most with no license plates, but said later that there was no
See **MINNESOTA** on A10 ►

Protesters fled as police moved in aggressively with tear gas during a peaceful protest near the Fifth Precinct station in Minneapolis on Saturday night.

Walz decries extremists' role in riots

By STEPHEN MONTEMAYOR
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Authorities trying to make sense of the wanton destruction in Minneapolis and St. Paul for the past three nights are struggling with a burning question: Who are these people?

Few answers emerged Saturday after Gov. Tim Walz and top law enforcement leaders suggested early in the day that as many as 80% of the looters and vandals who have decimated city streets in the name of George Floyd — an unarmed black man who died in police custody — actually came from out of town, maybe even out of the state. But they offered little evidence to back that up.

In some instances, such as the case of St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, they had to correct assertions that all of the suspects arrested in St. Paul had come from elsewhere.

State officials also gave conflicting accounts of whether the suspected agitators came from the ranks of white supremacists exploiting the rage over Floyd's death, or left wing anarchists bent on turning the anger toward their ends
See **GROUPS** on A9 ►



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A protester is helped by others outside the Fifth Precinct in south Minneapolis.



George Floyd

Weight of unrest
Daytime emotions, nighttime chaos take toll. **A6**

Prosecuting a cop
Freeman once again faces an uphill climb. **A7**

'Under assault'
Walz: Riots aim “to destabilize civil society.” **A11**

Russia stokes strife
Kremlin works to inflame racial tension in U.S. **A5**

The cry of a hellish night: 'Fire, fire, fire'

By PATRICK CONDON
and MIGUEL OTÁROLA
Star Tribune staff writers

The residents of one south Minneapolis apartment building started desperately warning one another with shouts and pounding a little before 4 a.m. Saturday as the city suffered through perhaps the worst night in its history.

“Our neighbors were banging on all the doors and screaming, ‘Fire, fire, fire,’” said Catharyne Bryant, who lives with Brandon Byers in the building near the intersection of Nicollet Avenue S. and W. 35th Street.

“My reaction was get my cat and get out,” she added.

Immediately next door, separated by only a few feet, a building containing O'Reilly Auto Parts and a Family Dollar store was on fire — one of hundreds that burned as a third night of riots and unrest spread to more neighborhoods in Minnesota's largest city.

Lizz Brazen was awake and following the news when she realized the Fond du Lac building was in imminent danger. She jumped right to notifying neighbors instead of bothering to call 911, then helped organize teams of residents to wet
See **CITIES** on A9 ►

Leaders speak to the pain, beg for peace

By BRIANA BIERSCHBACH
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They came from all walks of life and many beliefs.

They were reverends and rabbis and people of the Islamic faith. They spoke in Somali, Spanish and English. And they pleaded, at times through tears, for their hurt communities to stay home

Saturday night to prevent more pain.

Called together by Gov. Tim Walz, a group of Minnesota community leaders spent nearly two televised hours Saturday morning acknowledging the outrage over the death of George Floyd. In so doing, they also urged people to abide by an 8 p.m. curfew in place across a large swath

of the Twin Cities to help put an end to the riots that have traumatized residents.

They decried the presence of rioters from outside the metro area who, under the cloak of darkness, used peaceful protesters as “human shields” to loot and torch drug stores, a post office, auto parts shops and gas stations, and to
See **LEADERS** on All ►